# No medical follow up on drug tests

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Only a fraction of more than 3,000 volunteers given drugs in Defense Department tests have been checked for possible after-effects, a top Army medical research officer acknowledged Friday.

"We did not have the money or medical people to follow up on the type of investigation we thought was necessary," Dr. Van M. Sim said in sworn testimony before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

"That's an intolerable situation," subcommittee chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., commented.

"I agree with you fully," Sim responded.

Sim, a civilian, was recently removed from his job as head of the Medical Research Division of the Biomedical Laboratory at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., where Defense Department drug tests were conducted.

Sim said he knew of no deaths which had resulted from the testing of incapacitating or hallucinogenic drugs. But when Kennedy asked him "how do you know there were no deaths involved if you had no medical follow-up," Sim replied, "That's a good question."

Sim testified that between 1967 and July 1975, when all drug testing on human subjects was suspended, approximately 300 to 400 military volunteers a year underwent drug tests at Edgewood. An additional 100 to 200 volunteers a year came from a nearby prison, Sim added.

He also said that a certain number of university students were involved, but insisted that they had only been given "therapeutic drugs."

According to Sim, the Defense Department has initiated medical follow-up proceures for 585 volunteers who were given LSD, but nothing has been done for those who took other drugs, including seven types of "BZ compounds," which he said caused a state of "semiquiet delirium" for 12 to 20 hours but cleared up completely after 72 hours.

"Three thousand servicemen now really have no idea" whether certain symptons of depression or anxiety might be traced back to the drug tests, Kennedy said. "They're just loose somewhere out in this country and the Army evidently doesn't have the time to follow up."

Sim produced a copy of the consent form signed by each volunteer stating that "transitory discomfort may occur" but giving no indication of what type of drug they were about to be given.